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KAS

May 13, 1999

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

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Dear President Clinton:

I am writing to you about the current FDA plan to change the labeling requirements for irradiated food. I ask you--in the name of all concerned Americans--to please intervene on behalf of those of us who want the choice of whether or not to eat irradiated food. The FDA's job is protect us, not put us in harm's way; but their current proposal to drop labeling requirements endangers us all. Irradiated food is dangerous; that's why several countries have already outlawed irradiated food. To think that the FDA would even consider taking away our right to choose or reject such food in the grocery store is almost beyond belief, but that is exactly what they are proposing. When I voted for you, I was voting for someone not beholden to corporate America but someone concerned about all Americans. Please make sure that irradiated food is clearly labeled as such. You owe that to us. I have attached a copy of the letter I sent to the FDA. Thank you.

Yours,

Michael Smith
Michael Smith

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99 JUN 21 PM 5:09
U.S. SECRETARY
OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

98N 1038

6-23-99/19B C3298

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May 13, 1999

Dockets Management Branch
HFA-305
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Gentlemen:

I am writing in reference to Docket #98N-1038, Irradiation in the production, processing, and handling of food. You have requested comment on two questions: whether wording on the current radiation disclosure statement should be revised, and whether the labeling requirement should expire at a specified future date. Let me remind you that your sworn duty is to protect American citizens. As a citizen, I demand clear, prominent labeling of all irradiated foods and all foods that contain irradiated ingredients. All such foods must have labels including terms like "irradiated" and "treated with radiation" and must display the radura symbol; misleading alternative terms like "cold pasteurization" or "electronic pasteurization" must not be used. As consumers, we have the right to choose untreated foods; irradiation destroys vitamins and other nutrients and may be harmful in ways yet unknown. It would be unconscionable for you to interfere in any way with our right to choose. I demand that you maintain or strengthen labeling requirements for all irradiated foods.

Yours,

Michael Smith
313 - B Reynolds St.
Blacksburg, VA 24060

President Bill Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20500

